

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash, said diaper comprising a portion formed from paper mulch ~~for combating diaper rash, said diaper portion~~ comprising a plurality of ~~dark brown fibers, wherein said fibers are~~ coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal, water-insoluble, dark-brown form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers have been added to said paper mulch and which fibers release Cu^{++} ions when in contact with a fluid.
2. (Original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.
3. (Original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are disposed in said diaper as randomly scattered fibers in a paper layer.
4. (Original) A disposable paper diaper for combating diaper rash according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are dispersed in a paper layer positioned in said diaper to rest against the skin of the user.
5. (Currently amended) A method for the manufacture of a disposable paper diaper comprising an inner layer formed from paper mulch for combating diaper rash, comprising incorporating into said paper mulch a plurality of ~~dark brown~~ fibers coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal, water-insoluble, dark brown form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers release Cu^{++} when in contact with a fluid, ~~said fibers being provided in an inner layer of said disposable diaper formed from said mulch.~~

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.
7. (Currently amended) A disposable diaper liner formed from paper mulch for combating diaper rash, said diaper liner comprising a plurality of cellulosic fibers ~~of claim 1~~ coated with an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal, water-insoluble, dark-brown form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers have been added to said paper mulch and which fibers release Cu⁺⁺ ions when in contact with a fluid.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the fibers are finely chopped before addition to said paper mulch.